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SICILY REGION, MONTHLY REPORTS, GENERAL
DEC. 1943 - JUNE 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommission
AFG 394

Supplement to Report for June, 1945

Southern Italy, Sicily and Sardinia.

In southern Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia all schools and universities functioned throughout the year, closing for the summer vacation in June. Their most serious problem, in certain spots, has been the continued occupancy of school buildings by Allied Forces; in certain centers, such as Matera and Bari, this has almost completely strangled Italian education. While building repairs have been begun in many places, there is still a vast amount of repair and reconstruction to be done. The shortage of glass is still the most universal problem in the repair of school buildings. Another major and widespread problem, still unsolved, is replacement of scientific and technical equipment -- requisitioned by the Germans and by the Allied, looted, and destroyed.

GARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education

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ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 594

TIME: ED/350

2 Mar 1945

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Education - February 1945

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission

R C M E

(Att: Education Sub-Commission)

1. All schools functioned regularly during the month of February. The problems remained the same: lack of books, glass, school rooms, books and notebooks out, due to the improvement in the weather, attendance has been more regular and no classes had to be dismissed on account of severe cold weather.

2. The R. Provveditorato at RAGUSA is held at the present by a R. Provveditore Reggente, Dr. S. Alessi.

3. Book Printing

The printing and distribution tempo of the textbooks has increased, due mostly to the prayers and threats to the editors by the Education Officer and the representative of the Ministry of Public Instruction. A formal promise has been made by the editors that by the 15th of March 250,000 textbooks will be printed and distributed in SICILY and CALABRIA. Some of the editors are working on a 24-hour shift.

4. Due to the astronomical prices of the few remaining books left to the higher schools and universities, a total of 15 tons of paper has been given to publish "dispense" and textbooks approved by the Ministry and by the Rectors of the Universities. This will relieve, it is hoped, at least momentarily the situation.

5. Notebooks

7 tons of elementary paper has been made into notebooks which bear the following tag "quaderno allestito individualmente per conto AC da distribuire agli alunni".

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3. Book Printing

The printing and distribution tempo of the textbooks has increased, due mostly to the prayers and threats to the editors by the Ministry of Education Officer and the representative of the Ministry of Public Instruction. A formal promise has been made by the editors that by the 15th of March 299,000 textbooks will be printed and distributed in SICILY and CALABRIA. Some of the editors are working on a 24-hour shift.

4. Due to the astronomic prices of the few remaining books left to the higher schools and Universities, a total of 13 tons of paper has been given to publish "dispenses" and textbooks approved by the Ministry and by the Rectors of the Universities. This will relieve, it is hoped, at least momentarily the situation.

5. Notebooks

7 tons of elementary paper has been made into notebooks which bear the following tag "quaderno allestito esclusivamente per conto AC da distribuire agli alunni bisognosi a L.3" (distribuzione a cura del R. Provveditore agli Studi)
140,000 notebooks have been prepared with the following distribution:-

Palermo	40,000
Catania	40,000
Messina	25,000
Trapani	5,000
Agrigento	5,000
Siracusa	5,000
Caltanissetta	5,000
Ragusa	5,000
Enna	5,000

The Provveditore will pay L. 2.40 for each notebook (the cost of paper and manufacture) and he, in turn, will distribute them at L.3 each. It is surprising the effect that is to be observed at the moment since notebooks that were displayed at 40 and 80 lire each are now being sold at 15-20 lire each.

6. The surveys for glass required in the Sicilian schools are now coming in and some of the figures are really fantastic p.es. Agrigento Province with 41 communes and 400,000 population asks for 122,200 square metres of glass for 16 of its communes. Catania asks for 10,270 square metres and 1,000 1010 square metres. I wonder what Messina and Palermo are going to ask.

7. School Lunches

The Prefect of Agrigento has forwarded forms requesting lunches for 8957 pupils but he makes it plain that such lunches are not wanted unless they are given completely free by the Allied Commission or by the Ministry of Public Instruction since his communes, under no circumstances, are able to subtain the expense. I guess they won't get the lunches.

From the other provinces reports and requests are still lacking.

8. School Buildings

Few buildings have been released by the refugees and Allied and Italian troops but now it seems that the civilian authorities have opened a civil war on the school, particularly in the city of **MESSINA**, where a clandestine schools have been leased by the commune ^{to the local newspaper} to be used as a storage depot, and ^{at Palermo} a 10-year-old flight to locate the "Garibaldi" and the "Vittorio Emanuele" institutes is going on as furiously as ever.

9. Professor Barbato, Ispettore Centrale per le scuole medie, has spent 10 days in an inspection trip to the schools of the Province of Messina and among other remarks he points out that there has been a sharp decrease in the membership of elementary schools, p.es. Messina city from 21,000 duly enrolled pupils has now 9,000 attending classes. The professor says that this is mostly due to the non-realization and distribution of the much talked about "prefezione scolastica".

CC Di Bella

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the Allied and Italian troops but now it seems that the civilian authorities have opened a civil war on the school, particularly in the city of **MESSINA**, where elementary schools have been leased by the commune ^{at Palermo} to the local newspaper to be used as a storage depot, and a one year-old fight to locate the "Garibaldi" and the "Vittorio Emanuele" institutes is going on as furiously as ever.

2. Professor Barbato, Ispettore Centrale per le Scuole Medie, has spent 10 days in an inspection trip to the schools of the province of Messina and among other remarks he points out that there has been a sharp decrease in the membership of elementary schools, p.es. Messina city from 21,000 duly enrolled pupils has now 6,000 attending classes. The professor says that this is mostly due to the non-realisation and distribution of the "unon talked about 'profezione scolastica'".

R. C. Di Bella

1st Lt Z.A.

Education Officer

COPY TO: Regional Commissioner
Sicilia Region

1956

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ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

OFFICE: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

PHONE: 15555 EXT 1

FILE: MD/350

3 Feb 1945

SUBJECT: Monthly Report

(January 1945)

TO : Regional Commissioner Sicilia Region

Headquarters Allied Commission

R O M E

(Att: A/DIRECTOR Education subcommission)

1. When Sicilian schools re-opened their doors after the Christmas holidays they celebrated their first anniversary of a full year of teaching and study under the new democratic regime.

School problems remain as plentiful as ever due to war damage and the general economic situation.

97% of all glass is missing from the schoolroom windows and classes are being held in frigid weather even in the "Island of the Sun". Due to political disturbances in RAGUSA Province, schools remained closed until 21 JAN. A request has been sent to all the Provveditori agli studi and the genio civile to make a survey of all glass needed in the schools of the island in agreement with the last education conference held in Florence.

2. Personnel

The supply is greater than the demand and there is a general feeling of dissatisfaction in the teaching bodies due mostly to the new instructions from the Minister of Public Instruction as to the compilation of "graduatorie".

3. The provveditore agli studi of RAGUSA Province, Dr. Digiacomo, nominated Provveditore by AMG Decree No. 86 of 8 FEB 44 has been substituted by an acting Provveditore or Reggente. I have not been notified whether Headquarters Allied Commission concurs with the ministry in the recall of Dr. Digiacomo, in accordance with the provisions of the Badoglio Decree of 11 FEB 44. In this respect I have to note that the quasi/only efficient Provveditore has been replaced while some of the others who are well-known for their incapacity are left at their posts.

4. Universities

There have been disorders generally at all the Island

8. In all provinces comitati pro-schola are being formed with the purpose of helping the poorer children with textbooks, school supplies, clothing, etc. and general protection of the school interests.

9. I visited 6 elementary and "ginnasio-liceo" schools in Palermo and have well realized the problems being faced by pupils and teachers alike. In one liceo not a single square inch of glass was left and this difficulty had been partially met by the use of cardboard to keep the wind and cold out but even so the pupils sat with their overcoats on - at least those that had overcoats, while the rest did without. It is estimated that a minimum of 600 square metres of glass is needed for this school alone. In another school every room was a lake and the rain kept coming through the roof and the upper floors into classrooms.

10. Due to the complete absence of personnel in the field and speedy communications, the somewhat poor cooperation on the part of Italian school personnel, and my other duties, all those statistics, human interest stories, etc. were not received nor was it possible to compile them so as to enliven this report.

A.C. DeBellis

A.C. DEBELLIS

1st Lt F.A.

Acting Education Officer

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

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22 January 1945

SUBJECT : Monthly Report. December 1944TO : A/Regional Education Officer
Sicily Region.

1. Thank you very much for your brief monthly report, dated 9 January.
2. It came much too late for me to include in my monthly report which has to be mimeographed and filed by the tenth of each month. Please prepare your reports toward the end of the month for which they are written and get them into my hands by the 5th of the following month - e.g., your report for January should be in my hands by 5 February.
3. I greatly appreciate the way you are handling things for us in Sicily in addition to your other duties.

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Major, AUS
A/Director of Education.

**ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394**

OFFICE: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

PHONE: 13535 EXT 1

FILE: ED/350

9 Jan 1945

SUBJECT: Education Monthly Report- December 1944

**TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
(Att: Education Subcommittee)**

Regional Commissioner Sicilia Region

1. Schools were opened at PALERMO and TRAPANI Provinces on 5 DEC 44. On account of the smallpox epidemic these two provinces were unable to open on schedule.

2. On 23 DEC the Christmas Holidays began but at CATANIA and RAGUSA, due to disturbances there, the Provveditori agli Studi of these provinces suspended classes on 18 DEC.

3. The Provveditori are the most unpopular men on the Island at the moment and many complaints are being brought to the attention of the Education Officer. The demand for teachers is much smaller than the supply and this can be attributed to the partial opening of the schools (since many schools are closed due to the destruction of their buildings) and the general economic conditions of the Island particularly where the housewife was happy to be such, while now, to increment the family finance, she seeks to utilise her degree and occupy a school post. In many schools two or three turns are being taught both for the numbers of pupils to accommodate in one classroom and to place additional teachers.

4. Partial progress has been made in having the Allied and Italian Armies, refugees, and other civil institutions return school buildings to schools but the situation still remains far from satisfactory.

5. There has been a sharp increase in the school population of 1943 and this is especially true of the elementary schools. Two causes might have been a primary factors:-

a. The organisation of the "Comitati della Scuola" which under the direction of the Provveditori agli Studi collect funds to buy books and other school materials for

needy children.

b. The promised free school luncheons or "refezioni scolastiche".

6. The schools of RAGUSA under the leadership of the Provveditore in collaboration with the Prefect and other civil authorities have collected rags, clothing, money and food for refugees, children of refugees and prisoners of war. The Provveditore, Dr. Di Giacomo, "sparkplugged" the affair by writing a poem in Sicilian dialect telling a famous Sicilian "racconto" which was distributed in all the schools of the province. The affair was a great success especially in providing blankets (made from rags) for the refugees and in organising Christmas parties for their children and the poor children in general.

7. Free school lunches are still unoperative due to the fact that the requests for forms have not as yet been returned by the various Prefects but many communes are writing in stating that their financial condition prevents such additional expense being added to the communal burdens.

8. The long-awaited printing paper from the United States arrived in the last week of December but, unfortunately, the majority of it is of a type which cannot be used for school books. It is hoped to trade a portion of this paper with another Allied Agency or else ... books will not be printed. The basic elementary needs for the Island, above the 60,000 copies already printed, goes to another 70,000 copies.

A.C. DeBellis
A.C. DeBELLIS
1st Lt F.A.
A/ Education Officer

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SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS

AFPO 394

Ref. I

Education S.C.
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HEADQUARTERS

14 JUN 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Report of Education on May, 1944
TO : Regional Commissioner and Head Education Sub-Commission

A.C.C.

The present report is brief since the report for last month was comprehensive, and trends and activities have not changed materially.

The following items will be treated:

1. Relationships with Italian government
2. Reduction of personnel and program
3. Defascistization
4. Student strikes
5. Field work
6. Quality of education

A. Relationships with Italian government

All relationships with Italian officials remain generally satisfactory. Some disturbances have resulted from inept actions of the central government. Lack of action by that governmental level still causes insecurity and inefficiency. A large part of the weaknesses are undoubtedly inevitable but it seems that needless trouble could be avoided if (a) copies of all general communications could be sent to Regional Commissioners and (b) if the Subcommission personnel could follow each problem through to solution.

Textbook publication remains an Allied Control Commission function. It is recommended that the Ministry take over this activity.

Teatro Massimo is being returned to Italian control as are private Cinemas. Teatro Politeama is retained by IRS for military purposes.

B. Reduction of personnel and Program

The program has been reduced to adjust to change of function and loss of personnel.

Central Inspector Scisnoia was lost through death.

5. Field work

6. Quality of education

A. Relationships with Italian government

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B. Reduction of personnel and Program

The program has been reduced to adjust to change of function and loss of personnel.

Central Inspector Sciacca was lost through death. Lt.H.R. Beard was lost to the staff through transfer. A majority of the civilian staff will be dropped from the payroll on June 15.

C. Defascistization

The effort of this office in the field of defascistization have been concerned with giving assistance to provincial Commissioners and with encouraging uniformity of procedure between provinces and officers.

Additional names have been recommended in the various provinces. Questions concerning loyalty of educational personnel still come in from various sources. The new guide issued by the Chief Commissioner will be helpful but little order can come until the Italian government decides upon its policies.

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D. Student strikes

Student strikes have been reported in Palermo, Catania and Siracusa provinces.

These were caused apparently first by an error on the part of the Ministry in not upholding the school calendar for Sicily as established by Allied Military Government and secondly by an order that final examinations must be held. The error was corrected and the Ministry was supported in its stand on examinations

E. Field work

Field work has been limited to work in Palermo provinces and to two trips by the Regional Education Division; one to Corsica to help with soldier Education and one to Messina province to inspect schools (including the Aeolian Islands) and adjust several Allied Military Government decrees to the existing situation.

F. Quality of Education

Investigations indicate that the quality of Italian education is distressingly low from every point of view.

G.R. Koopman
G.R. Koopman
Major, A.U.S.
Regional Education Officer.

Quality of Education
Investigations indicate that the quality of Italian
education is distressingly low from every point of view.

G.H. Koopman

G.H. Koopman

Major, A.D.J.

Regional Education Officer.

1948

A. Relationships

who have

4. Organization for work.

The organization of officers, men, civilian personnel, and Italian officials to accomplish the purposes of the division has been as follows during this month.

Special writers have now completed their work and have been paid off. Lack of transportation has been our chief handicapping factor.

U.S. MARSHAL,
Major A.U.S.
Chief, Division of Rome

province have all been settled harmoniously.

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